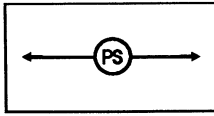


## STD &amp; SPEC 3.32



## PERMANENT SEEDING

Definition

The establishment of perennial vegetative cover on disturbed areas by planting seed.

Purposes

1. To reduce erosion and decrease sediment yield from disturbed areas.
2. To permanently stabilize disturbed areas in a manner that is economical, adaptable to site conditions, and allows selection of the most appropriate plant materials.
3. To improve wildlife habitat.
4. To enhance natural beauty.



### Conditions Where Practice Applies

1. Disturbed areas where permanent, long-lived vegetative cover is needed to stabilize the soil.
2. Rough-graded areas which will not be brought to final grade for a year or more.

### Planning Considerations

Vegetation controls erosion by reducing the velocity and the volume of overland flow and protecting the bare soil surface from raindrop impact.

Areas which must be stabilized after the land has been disturbed require vegetative cover. The most common and economical means of establishing this cover is by seeding grasses and legumes. Permanent vegetative covers must meet the requirements of Minimum Standard #3.

Advantages of seeding over other means of establishing plants include the small initial establishment cost, the wide variety of grasses and legumes available, low labor requirement, and ease of establishment in difficult areas.

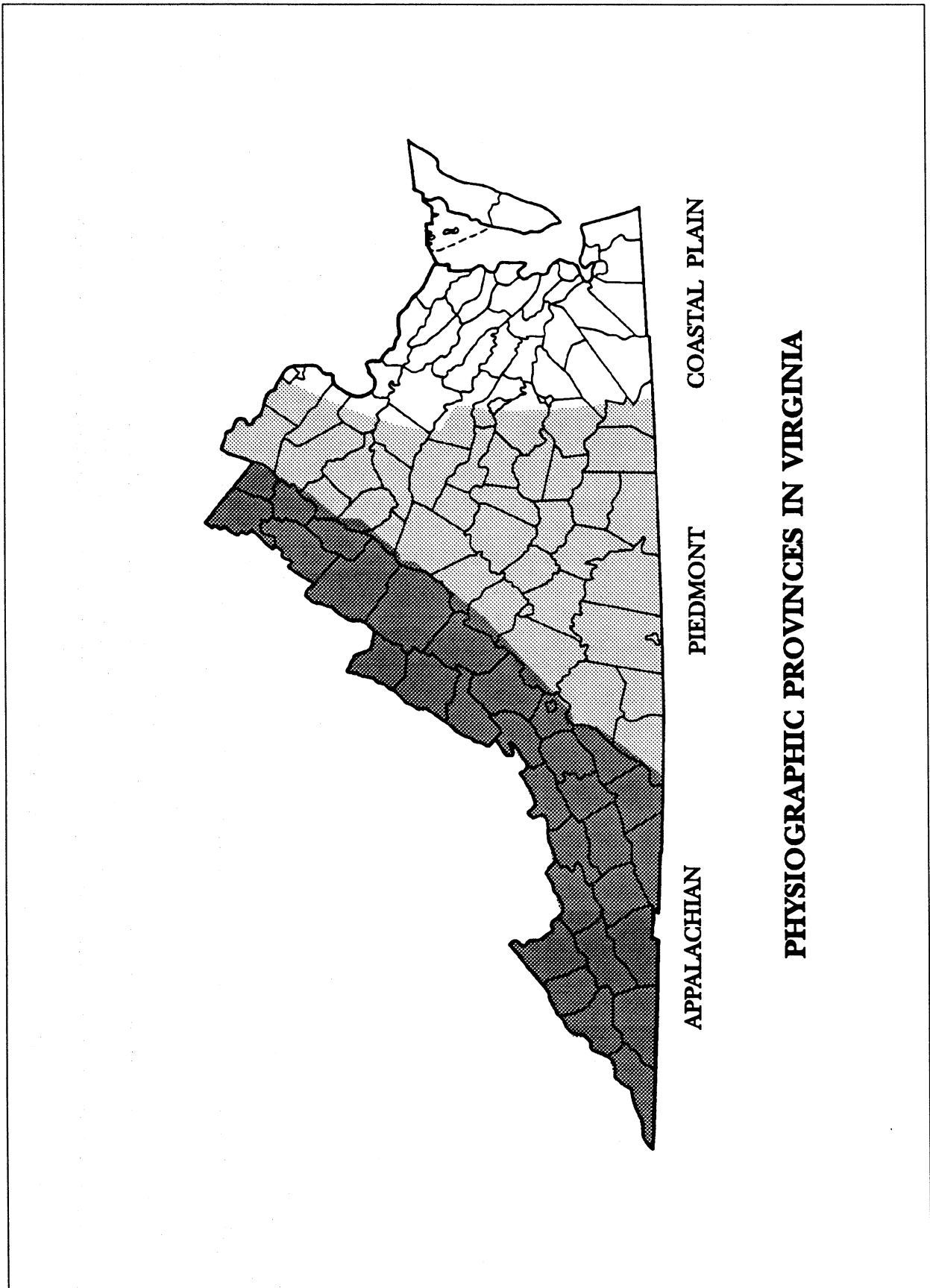
Disadvantages which must be dealt with are the potential for erosion during the establishment stage, a need to reseed areas that fail to establish, limited periods during the year suitable for seeding, the potential need for weed control during the establishment phase, and a need for water and appropriate climatic conditions during germination.

There are so many variables in plant growth that an end product cannot be guaranteed. Much can be done in the planning stages to increase the chances for successful seeding. Selection of the right plant materials for the site, good seedbed preparation, and conscientious maintenance are important.

**SELECTING PLANT MATERIALS:** The factors affecting plant growth are climate, soils, and topography. In Virginia, there are three major physiographic regions that reflect changes in soil and topography. In selecting appropriate plant materials, one should take into account the characteristics of the physiographic region in which the project is located (see Plate 3.32-1).

### **PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGIONS:**

**Coastal Plain** - Soils on the Coastal Plain are deeply weathered, stratified deposits of sand and clay. They are generally acidic and low in plant nutrients. The sandy soils are hot and droughty in summer. This region receives more rain and is warmer than the other regions of the state. The land is fairly level, and many areas are poorly drained. Warm season grasses traditionally perform well in these areas.



Source: Va. DSWC

Plate 3.32-1

Piedmont - Soils on the Piedmont plateau are highly variable. They tend to be shallow, with clayey subsoils. Piedmont soils are low in phosphorus. Soils derived from mica schist are highly erodible. Topography is rolling and hilly. The southern Piedmont has much the same climate as the Coastal Plain. Often referred to as the "transition zone" in planting. Contains areas that will support both warm or cool season grasses.

Appalachian and Blue Ridge Region - This region is divided into plateaus, mountains, and narrow valleys. Soils tend to be shallow and acid, and may erode rapidly on steep slopes. Shaley slopes are often unstable and droughty. This area is colder and drier than the rest of the State. The rugged topography makes plant establishment difficult. Cool season grasses are normally specified in this region.

SOILS: On the whole, soils in Virginia always require some nitrogen (N) fertilization to establish plants. Phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) are usually needed. Except for some small pockets of shallow limestone soils, lime is universally needed.

Soils can be modified with lime and fertilizer, but climate cannot be controlled. For this reason, the State has been divided into two major climatic regions, referred to as the Northern Piedmont and Mountain Region and the Southern Piedmont and Coastal Plain Region, for grass and legume selection (see map, Plate 3.32-2).

Microclimate, or localized climate conditions, can affect plant growth. A south-facing slope is drier and hotter than a north-facing slope, and may require drought-tolerant plants. Shaded areas require shade-tolerant plants; the windward side of a ridge will be drier than the leeward, etc.

LAND USE: A prime consideration in selecting which plants to establish is the intended use of the land. All of these uses - residential, industrial, commercial, recreational - can be separated into two major categories: high-maintenance and low-maintenance.

High-maintenance areas will be mowed frequently, limed and fertilized regularly, and will either receive intense use (e.g., athletics) or require maintaining to an aesthetic standard (home lawns). Grasses used for these situations must be fine-leaved and attractive in appearance, able to form tight sod, and be long-lived perennials. They must be well-adapted to the geographic area where they are planted, because constant mowing puts turf under great stress. Sites where high-maintenance vegetative cover is desirable include homes, industrial parks, schools, churches, athletic playing surfaces as well as some recreational areas.

Low-maintenance areas will be mowed infrequently or not at all; lime and fertilizer may not be applied on a regular basis; the areas will not be subjected to intense use, nor required to have a uniform appearance. These plants must be able to persist with little maintenance over long periods of time. Grass and legume mixtures are favored for these sites because legumes are capable of fixing nitrogen from the air for their own use, and the use of the plants around them. Such mixed stands are better able to withstand adverse conditions.

Sites that would be suitable for low-maintenance vegetation include steep slopes, stream or channel banks, some commercial properties, and "utility turf" areas such as roadbanks.

Seedbed Preparation - The soil on a disturbed site must be modified to provide an optimum environment for seed germination and seedling growth. The surface soil must be loose enough for water infiltration and root penetration. The pH (acidity and alkalinity) of the soil must be such that it is not toxic and nutrients are available, usually between pH 6.0-7.0. Sufficient nutrients (added as fertilizer) must be present. After seed is in place, it must be protected with a mulch to hold moisture and modify temperature extremes, and to prevent erosion while seedlings are growing.

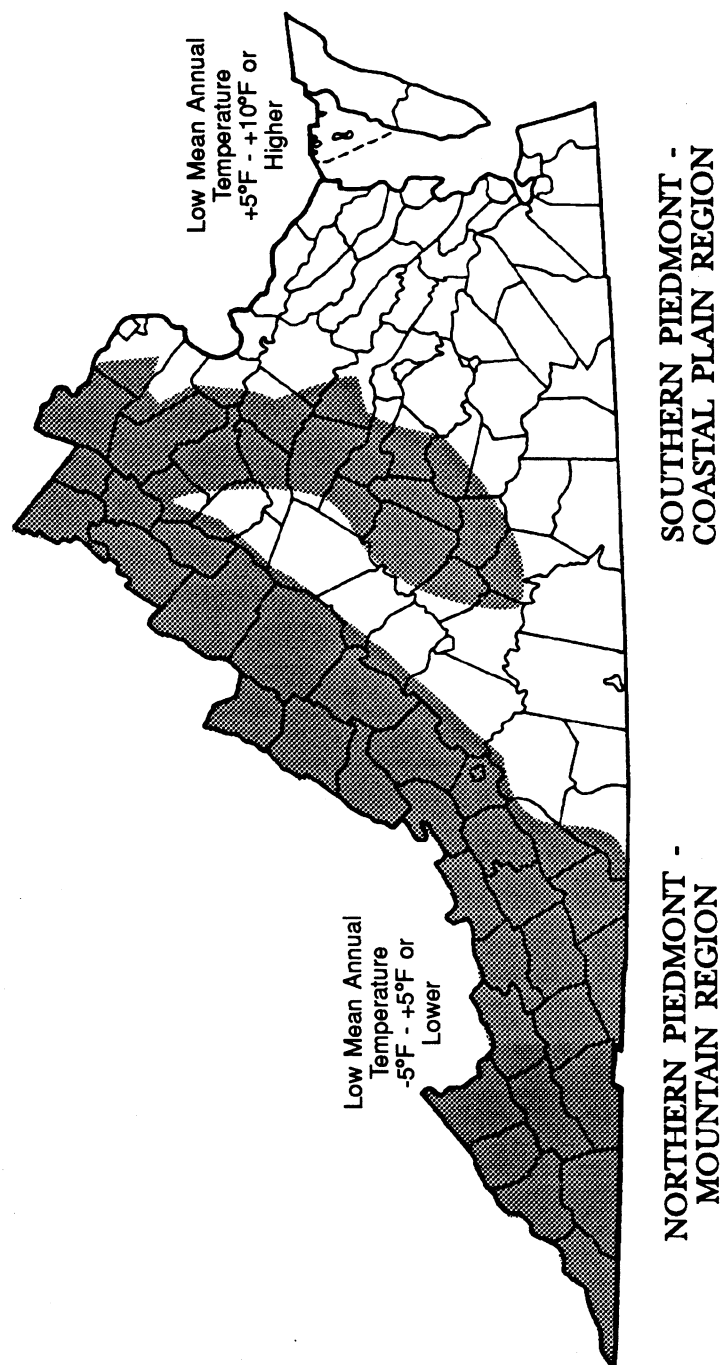
The addition of lime is equally as important as applying fertilizer. Lime is best known as a pH, or acidity, modifier, but it also supplies calcium and magnesium which are plant nutrients. Its effect on pH makes other nutrients more available to the plant. It can also prevent aluminum toxicity by making aluminum less soluble in the soil. Many soils in Virginia are high in aluminum, which stunts the growth of plant roots.

MAINTENANCE: Even with careful, well-planned seeding operations, failures can occur. When it is clear that plants have not germinated on an area or have died, these areas must be reseeded immediately to prevent erosion damage. However, it is extremely important to determine for what reason germination did not take place and make any corrective action necessary prior to reseeding the area. Healthy vegetation is the most effective erosion control available.

### Specifications

#### Selection of Plant Materials

1. Selection of plant materials is based on climate, topography, soils, land use, and planting season. To determine which plant materials are best adapted to a specific site, use Tables 3.32-A and 3.22-B which describe plant characteristics and list recommended varieties.
2. Appropriate seeding mixtures for various site conditions in Virginia are given in Tables 3.32-C, 3.32-D and 3.32-E. These mixtures are designed for general use, and are known to perform well on the sites described. Check Tables 3.32-A and 3.32-B for recommended varieties.
3. A more extensive description of plant materials (grasses and legumes), their usage and pictorial representation can be found in Appendix 3.32-c.
4. When using some varieties of turfgrasses, the Virginia Crop Improvement Association (VCIA) recommended turfgrass mixtures may also be used. Consumer protection programs have been devised to identify quality seed of the varieties recommended by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service. These will bear a label indicating



### PLANT HARDINESS ZONES IN VIRGINIA FOR GRASSES AND LEGUMES

Source: Adapted from Virginia Climate Advisory, 1979.

Plate 3.32-2

that they are approved by the Association. Mixtures may be designed for a specific physiographic region or based on intended use. Special consideration is given to plant characteristics, performance, etc.

TABLE 3.32-A  
CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMONLY SELECTED GRASSES

COMMON NAME (Botanical Name)	Life Cycle	Season	pH Range	Germination Time In Days	Optimum Germination Temperature (°F)	Winter Hardiness	Drought Tolerance	Fertility	Soil Drainage Tolerance	Seeds Per Pound	MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS	REMARKS	Suggested Varieties for Virginia
TALL FESCUE ( <i>Festuca arundinacea</i> )	P	C	5.5- 6.2	10-14	60-85	F	F	M	SPD	225K	Low when used for erosion control; high when used in lawn	Better suited for erosion control and rough turf application.	Ky 31
TALL FESCUES (Improved)	P	C	5.5- 6.2	10-14	60-85	F	G	M	SPD	220K	Responds well to high maintenance.	Excellent for lawn and fine turf.	See current VCIA list.
KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS ( <i>Poa pratense</i> )	P	C	6.0- 6.5	14	60-75	G	P	M	SPD	2.2m	Needs fertile soil, favorable moisture. Requires several years to become well established.	Excellent for fine turfs-takes traffic, mowing. Poor drought/heat tolerance.	See current VCIA list.
PERENNIAL RYEGRASS ( <i>Lolium perenne</i> )	P	C	5.8- 6.2	7-10	60-75	F	F	M-H	SPD	227K	Will tolerate traffic.	May be added to mixes. * Improved varieties will perform well all year.	See current VCIA list.

KEY

A = Annual P = Perennial C = Cool Season Plant W = Warm Season Plant G = Good F = Fair P = Poor VP = Very Poor H = High  
M = Medium L = Low SPD = Somewhat Poorly Drained MPD = Moderately Poorly Drained PD = Poorly Drained VPD = Very Poorly Drained



TABLE 3.32-A (Continued)  
CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMONLY SELECTED GRASSES

COMMON NAME (Botanical Name)	Life Cycle	Season	pH Range	Germination Time, In Days	Optimum Germination Temperature (°F)	Winter Hardiness	Drought Tolerance	Fertility	Soil Drainage Tolerance	Seeds Per Pound	MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS	REMARKS	Suggested Varieties for Virginia
FINE FESCUES	P	C	5.0- 6.2	10- 14	60- 80	VG	G	L	MWD	400K	Grows well in sun or shade and will tolerate infertile soils; improved disease resistance.	Exceeds all fine fescues in most tests. Excellent for low-maintenance situations.	Reliant, Spartan, Aurora
	P	C	5.0- 6.2	10- 14	60- 80	VG	G	L	MWD	400K	Tolerates shade, dry infertile soils.	Poor traffic tolerance, less thatch than other fine fescues.	Flyer
	P	C	5.0- 6.2	10- 14	60- 80	VG	G	L	MWD	400K	Low to medium fertility requirements. Requires well-drained soil.	Spreads by rhizomes, tillers and stolons. Will not take traffic - very shade tolerant.	Long- fellow, Victory
REED CANARYGRASS (Phalaris arundinacea)	P	C	5.8- 6.2	21	70- 85	G	G	M-H	VPD	530K	Do not mow closely or often.	Conservation cover in wet areas.	No named varieties

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TABLE 3.32-A (Continued)  
CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMONLY SELECTED GRASSES

COMMON NAME (Botanical Name)	Life Cycle	Season	pH Range	Germination Time, In Days	Optimum Germination Temperature (°F)	Winter Hardiness	Drought Tolerance	Fertility	Soil Drainage Tolerance	Seeds Per Pound	MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS	REMARKS	Suggested Varieties for Virginia
REDTOP ( <i>Agrostis alba</i> )	P	C	5.8- 6.2	10	65-85	G	F	L	PD	5m	Will tolerate poor, infertile soils; deep rooted.	Does well in erosion control mixes - not for lawns.	No named varieties.
WEEPING LOVEGRASS ( <i>Eragrostis curvula</i> )	P	W	4.5- 6.2	14	65-85	F-P	G	L-M	SPD	1.5m	Low-fertility requirements; excellent drought tolerance.	Fast-growing, warm-season bunch grass. Excellent cover for erosion control.	No named varieties.
BERMUDAGRASS ( <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> )	P	W	5.8- 6.2	21	70-95	P	G	M-H	SPD	1.8m hulled	High nitrogen utilization, excellent drought tolerance. Some varieties adapted to western VA.	Common varieties used for erosion control. Hybrids used for fine turf.	See current VCIA list.
ORCHARDGRASS ( <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> )	P	C	5.8- 6.2	18	60-75	F	F	M	SPD	625K	Does best on well- drained, loamy soil.	Good pasture selection - may be grazed.	Virginia origin or Potomac

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TABLE 3.32-A (Continued)  
CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMONLY SELECTED GRASSES

COMMON NAME (Botanical Name)	Life Cycle	Season	pH Range	Germination Time In Days	Optimum Germination Temperature (°F)	Winter Hardiness	Drought Tolerance	Fertility	Soil Drainage Tolerance	Seeds Per Pound	MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS	REMARKS	Suggested Varieties for Virginia
ANNUAL RYEGRASS ( <i>Lolium multiflorum</i> )	A	C	5.8- 6.2	7	60-70	G	P	M-H	SPD	227K	Will grow on most Virginia Soils. Do not use in fine-turf areas.	May be added into mixes or established alone as temporary cover in spring and fall.	No named varieties.
RYE ( <i>Secale cereale</i> )	A	C	5.8- 6.2	7	55-70	VG	G	L-M	SPD	18K	Will establish in most all Virginia soils. Do not use in fine-turf areas.	May be added into mixes or established alone for late fall/winter cover.	Abruzzi, Balboa
FOXTAIL MILLET ( <i>Setaria italica</i> )	A	W	5.8- 6.2	10	65-85	VP	G	M	MWD	220K	Establishes well during summer. Very low moisture requirements.	May be added to erosion-control mixes or established alone.	Common, German

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**TABLE 3.32-B**  
**CHARACTERISTICS OF LEGUMES APPROPRIATE FOR EROSION CONTROL**

COMMON NAME (Botanical Name)	Life Cycle	Season	pH Range	Germination Time In Days	Optimum Germination Temperature (°F)	Winter Hardiness	Drought Tolerance	Fertility	Soil Drainage Tolerance	Seeds Per Pound	MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS	REMARKS	Suggested Varieties for Virginia
CROWN VETCH ( <i>Coronilla varia</i> )	P	C	6.0- 6.5	14-21	70	G	VG	M	MWD	110K	Does best on well-drained soils. Minimum maintenance when established. May need phosphorus. Inoculation is essential.	Excellent for steep, rocky slopes. Produces colorful blooms in May/June. Slow to establish. Does best when seeded in spring.	Penngift Chemung Emerald
SERICEA LESPEDEZA ( <i>Lespedeza cuneata</i> )	P	W	5.8- 6.2	21-28	70- 85	F	VG	L	MWD	335K	Grows in most well-drained soils. Low fertility requirements. Inoculation is essential.	Use hulled seed in spring; unhulled in fall. Very deep-rooted legume. Excellent choice for eastern Va.	Serecia Interstate
FLAT PEA ( <i>Lathyrus silvestris</i> )	P	C	5.0- 7.0	14-28	65- 75	G	G	L	PD	15K	Needs lime and high phosphorus. Good shade tolerance.	Tolerates acidic and wetter soils better than other legumes.	Lathco
BIRD'S FOOT TREFOIL ( <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> )	P	C	6.0- 6.5	7	65- 70	G	F	M	SPD	375K	Inoculation is essential. Grows in medium-fertile, slightly acid soils.	Grows better on poorly drained soils than most legumes. Poor drought/ heat tolerance.	No named varieties.

**KEY**

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M = Medium    L = Low    SPD = Somewhat Poorly Drained    MPD = Moderately Poorly Drained    PD = Poorly Drained    VPD = Very Poorly Drained

TABLE 3.32-B (Continued)  
CHARACTERISTICS OF LEGUMES APPROPRIATE FOR EROSION CONTROL

COMMON NAME (Botanical Name)	Life Cycle	Season	pH Range	Germination Time In Days	Optimum Germination Temperature (°F)	Winter Hardiness	Drought Tolerance	Fertility	Soil Drainage Tolerance	Seeds Per Pound	MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS	REMARKS	Suggested Varieties for Virginia
ANNUAL LESPEDEZAS ( <i>Lespedeza striata</i> , <i>L. stipulacea</i> )	A	W	5.8- 6.2	14	70- 85	F	VG	L	MWD	200K	Will grow on almost any well-drained soil.	Choose Kobe for southeastern Va.; needs almost no nitrogen to survive.	Kobe, Korean
RED CLOVER ( <i>Trifolium pratense</i> )	P	C	6.0- 6.5	7-14	70	G	F	M	SPD	275K	Needs high levels of phosphorus and potassium.	Acts as a biennial. Can be added to low- maintenance mixes.	Kenstar, Kenland
WHITE CLOVER ( <i>Trifolium repens</i> )	P	C	6.0- 6.5	10	70	G	P	M	PD	700K	Requires favorable moisture, fertile soils, high pH.	Spreads by soil surface stolons, white flowers.	Common, White Dutch

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**TABLE 3.32-C**  
**SITE SPECIFIC SEEDING MIXTURES**  
**FOR APPALACHIAN/MOUNTAIN AREA**

<u>Minimum Care Lawn</u>	<u>Total Lbs. Per Acre</u>
- Commercial or Residential	200-250 lbs.
- Kentucky 31 or Turf-Type Tall Fescue	90-100%
- Improved Perennial Ryegrass *	0-10%
- Kentucky Bluegrass	0-10%
<u>High-Maintenance Lawn</u>	
Minimum of three (3) up to five (5) varieties of bluegrass from approved list for use in Virginia.	125 lbs.
<u>General Slope (3:1 or less)</u>	
- Kentucky 31 Fescue	128 lbs.
- Red Top Grass	2 lbs.
- Seasonal Nurse Crop **	<u>20 lbs.</u>
	150 lbs.
<u>Low-Maintenance Slope (Steeper than 3:1)</u>	
- Kentucky 31 Fescue	108 lbs.
- Red Top Grass	2 lbs.
- Seasonal Nurse Crop **	20 lbs.
- Crownvetch ***	<u>20 lbs.</u>
	150 lbs.

\* Perennial Ryegrass will germinate faster and at lower soil temperatures than fescue, thereby providing cover and erosion resistance for seedbed.

\*\* Use seasonal nurse crop in accordance with seeding dates as stated below:  
 March, April through May 15th ..... Annual Rye  
 May 16th through August 15th ..... Foxtail Millet  
 August 16th through September, October ..... Annual Rye  
 November through February ..... Winter Rye

\*\*\* If Flatpea is used, increase to 30 lbs./acre. All legume seed must be properly inoculated. Weeping Lovegrass may also be included in any slope or low-maintenance mixture during warmer seeding periods; add 10-20 lbs/acre in mixes.

**TABLE 3.32-D**  
**SITE SPECIFIC SEEDING MIXTURES FOR PIEDMONT AREA**

	<u>Total Lbs.</u> <u>Per Acre</u>
<u>Minimum Care Lawn</u>	
- Commercial or Residential	175-200 lbs.
- Kentucky 31 or Turf-Type Tall Fescue	95-100%
- Improved Perennial Ryegrass	0-5%
- Kentucky Bluegrass	0-5%
<u>High-Maintenance Lawn</u>	200-250 lbs.
- Kentucky 31 or Turf-Type Tall Fescue	100%
<u>General Slope (3:1 or less)</u>	
- Kentucky 31 Fescue	128 lbs.
- Red Top Grass	2 lbs.
- Seasonal Nurse Crop *	<u>20 lbs.</u>
	150 lbs.
<u>Low-Maintenance Slope (Steeper than 3:1)</u>	
- Kentucky 31 Fescue	108 lbs.
- Red Top Grass	2 lbs.
- Seasonal Nurse Crop *	20 lbs.
- Crownvetch **	<u>20 lbs.</u>
	150 lbs.

\* Use seasonal nurse crop in accordance with seeding dates as stated below:

February 16th through April .....	Annual Rye
May 1st through August 15th .....	Foxtail Millet
August 16th through October .....	Annual Rye
November through February 15th .....	Winter Rye

\*\* Substitute Sericea lespedeza for Crownvetch east of Farmville, Va. (May through September use hulled Sericea, all other periods, use unhulled Sericea). If Flatpea is used in lieu of Crownvetch, increase rate to 30 lbs./acre. All legume seed must be properly inoculated. Weeping Lovegrass may be added to any slope or low-maintenance mix during warmer seeding periods; add 10-20 lbs./acre in mixes.

TABLE 3.32-D

## SITE SPECIFIC SEEDING MIXTURES FOR COASTAL PLAIN AREA

	Total Lbs. Per Acre
<u>Minimum Care Lawn</u>	
- Commercial or Residential	
- Kentucky 31 or Turf-Type Tall Fescue	175-200 lbs.
or	
- Common Bermudagrass **	75 lbs.
<u>High-Maintenance Lawn</u>	
- Kentucky 31 or Turf-Type Tall Fescue	200-250 lbs.
or	
- Hybrid Bermudagrass (seed) **	40 lbs. (unhulled)
or	30 lbs. (hulled)
- Hybrid Bermudagrass (by other vegetative establishment method, see Std. & Spec. 3.34)	
<u>General Slope (3:1 or less)</u>	
- Kentucky 31 Fescue	128 lbs.
- Red Top Grass	2 lbs.
- Seasonal Nurse Crop *	<u>20 lbs.</u>
	150 lbs.
<u>Low Maintenance Slope (Steeper than 3:1)</u>	
- Kentucky 31 Tall Fescue	93-108 lbs.
- Common Bermudagrass **	0-15 lbs.
- Red Top Grass	2 lbs.
- Seasonal Nurse Crop *	20 lbs.
- Sericea Lespedeza **	<u>20 lbs.</u>
	150 lbs.

\* Use seasonal nurse crop in accordance with seeding dates as stated below:

February, March through April	Annual Rye
May 1st through August	Foxtail Millet
September, October through November 15th	Annual Rye
November 16th through January	Winter Rye

\*\* May through October, use hulled seed. All other seeding periods, use unhulled seed. Weeping Lovegrass may be added to any slope or low-maintenance mix during warmer seeding periods; add 10-20 lbs./acre in mixes.



### Seedbed Requirements

Vegetation should not be established on slopes that are unsuitable due to inappropriate soil texture, poor internal structure or internal drainage, volume of overland flow, or excessive steepness, until measures have been taken to correct these problems.

To maintain a good stand of vegetation, the soil must meet certain minimum requirements as a growth medium. The existing soil must have these characteristics:

1. Enough fine-grained material to maintain adequate moisture and nutrient supply.
2. Sufficient pore space to permit root penetration. A bulk density of 1.2 to 1.5 indicates that sufficient pore space is present. A fine granular or crumb-like structure is also favorable.
3. Sufficient depth of soil to provide an adequate root zone. The depth to rock or impermeable layers such as hardpans shall be 12 inches or more, except on slopes steeper than 2:1 where the addition of soil is not feasible.
4. A favorable pH range for plant growth. If the soil is so acidic that a pH range of 6.0-7.0 cannot be attained by addition of pH-modifying materials, then the soil is considered an unsuitable environment for plant roots and further soil modification would be required.
5. Freedom from toxic amounts of materials harmful to plant growth.
6. Freedom from excessive quantities of roots, branches, large stones, large clods of earth, or trash of any kind. Clods and stones may be left on slopes steeper than 3:1 if they do not significantly impede good seed soil contact.

If any of the above criteria cannot be met, i.e., if the existing soil is too coarse, dense, shallow, acidic, or contaminated to foster vegetation, then topsoil shall be applied in accordance with TOPSOILING, Std. & Spec. 3.30.

Necessary structural erosion and sediment control practices will be installed prior to seeding. Grading will be carried out according to the approved plan.

Surfaces will be roughened in accordance with SURFACE ROUGHENING, Std. & Spec. 3.29.

### Soil Conditioners

In order to modify the texture, structure, or drainage characteristics of a soil, the following materials may be added to the soil:

1. Peat is a very costly conditioner, but works well. If added, it shall be sphagnum moss peat, hypnum moss peat, reed-sedge peat or peat humus, from fresh-water sources. Peat shall be shredded and conditioned in storage piles for at least six months after excavation.
2. Sand shall be clean and free of toxic materials. Sand modification is ineffective unless you are adding 80 to 90% sand on a volume basis. This is extremely difficult to do on-site. If this practice is considered, consult a professional authority to ensure that it is done properly.
3. Vermiculite shall be horticultural grade and free of toxic substances. It is an impractical modifier for larger acreage due to expense.
4. Raw manure is more commonly used in agricultural applications. However, when stored properly and allowed to compost, it will stabilize nitrogen and other nutrients. Manure, in its composted form, is a viable soil conditioner; however, its use should be based on site-specific recommendations offered by a professional in this field.
5. Thoroughly rotted sawdust shall have 6 pounds of nitrogen added to each cubic yard and shall be free of stones, sticks, and toxic substances.
6. The use of treated sewage sludge has benefitted from continuing advancements in its applications in the agricultural community. When composted, it offers an alternative soil amendment. Limitations include a potentially undesirable pH (because of lime added during the treatment process) and the possible presence of heavy metals. This practice should be thoroughly evaluated by a professional and be used in accordance with any local, state, and federal regulations.

### Lime and Fertilizer

Lime and fertilizer needs should be determined by soil tests. Soil tests may be performed by the Cooperative Extension Service Soil Testing Laboratory at VPI&SU, or by a reputable commercial laboratory. Information concerning the State Soil Testing Laboratory is available from county extension agents. Reference Appendix 3.32-d for liming applications (in lbs.) needed to correct undesirable pH for various soil types.

Under unusual conditions where it is not possible to obtain a soil test, the following soil amendments will be applied:

#### Lime

Coastal Plain: 2 tons/acre pulverized agricultural grade limestone (90 lbs./1000 ft.<sup>2</sup>).

Piedmont and Appalachian Region: 2 tons/acre pulverized agricultural grade limestone (90 lbs./1000 ft.<sup>2</sup>).

**Note:** An agricultural grade of limestone should always be used.

### Fertilizer

Mixed grasses and legumes: 1000 lbs./acre 10-20-10 or equivalent nutrients (23 lbs./1000 ft.<sup>2</sup>).

Legume stands only: 1000 lbs./acre 5-20-10 (23 lbs./ 1000 ft.<sup>2</sup>) is preferred; however, 1000 lbs./acre of 10-20-10 or equivalent may be used.

Grass stands only: 1000 lbs./acre 10-20-10 or equivalent nutrients, (23 lbs./1000 ft.<sup>2</sup>).

Other fertilizer formulations, including slow-release sources of nitrogen (preferred from a water quality standpoint), may be used provided they can supply the same amounts and proportions of plant nutrients.

Incorporation - Lime and fertilizer shall be incorporated into the top 4-6 inches of the soil by discing or other means whenever possible. For erosion control, when applying lime and fertilizer with a hydroseeder, apply to a rough, loose surface.

### Seeding

1. Certified seed will be used for all permanent seeding whenever possible. Certified seed is inspected by the Virginia Crop Improvement Association or the certifying agency in other states. The seed must meet published state standards and bear an official "Certified Seed" label (see Appendix 3.32-a).

#### Kentucky Bluegrass Seed Mixtures

##### MARYLAND - VIRGINIA RECOMMENDED

Virginia Crop  
Improvement  
Association  
Blackburg, Virginia



##### FINE TEXTURED TURF MIXTURE

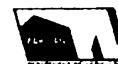
This seed is recommended by the Extension Divisions of Maryland and Virginia and has been packaged under the supervision of an authorized inspector of the Virginia Crop Improvement Association or the Maryland State Board of Agriculture.

\* Recommended Area is Shaded. **V 33505**

#### Kentucky Bluegrass Seed Blends

##### VIRGINIA - MARYLAND RECOMMENDED

Virginia Crop  
Improvement  
Association  
Blackburg, Virginia



##### KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS TURF SEED

This seed is composed of improved Kentucky Bluegrass varieties currently recommended by Extension Divisions of Virginia and Maryland for use in shaded areas of the states on this label and has been packaged under the supervision of an authorized inspector of the Virginia Crop Improvement Association or the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

**V 25004**

2. Legume seed should be inoculated with the inoculant appropriate to the species. Seed of the Lespedezas, the Clovers and Crownvetch should be scarified to promote uniform germination.
3. Apply seed uniformly with a broadcast seeder, drill, culti-packer seeder, or hydroseeder on a firm, friable seedbed. Seeding depth should be 1/4 to 1/2 inch.
4. To avoid poor germination rates as a result of seed damage during hydroseeding, it is recommended that if a machinery breakdown of 30 minutes to 2 hours occurs, 50% more seed be added to the tank, based on the proportion of the slurry remaining in the tank. Beyond 2 hours, a full rate of new seed may be necessary.

Often hydroseeding contractors prefer not to apply lime in their rigs as it is abrasive. In inaccessible areas, lime may have to be applied separately in pelletized or liquid form. Surface roughening is particularly important when hydroseeding, as a roughened slope will provide some natural coverage of lime, fertilizer and seed.

Legume inoculants should be applied at five times the recommended rate when inoculant is included in the hydroseeder slurry.

### Mulching

All permanent seeding must be mulched immediately upon completion of seed application. Refer to MULCHING, Std. & Spec. 3.35.

### Maintenance of New Seedings

In general, a stand of vegetation cannot be determined to be fully established until it has been maintained for one full year after planting.

Irrigation: New seedings should be supplied with adequate moisture. Supply water as needed, especially late in the season, in abnormally hot or dry weather, or on adverse sites. Water application rates should be controlled to prevent excessive runoff. Inadequate amounts of water may be more harmful than no water.

Re-seeding: Inspect seeded areas for failure and make necessary repairs and re-seedings within the same season, if possible.

- a. If vegetative cover is inadequate to prevent rill erosion, over-seed and fertilize in accordance with soil test results.
- b. If a stand has less than 40% cover, re-evaluate choice of plant materials and quantities of lime and fertilizer. The soil must be tested to determine if acidity or nutrient imbalances are responsible. Re-establish the stand following seedbed preparation and seeding recommendations.

**Fertilization:** Cool season grasses should begin to be fertilized 90 days after planting to ensure proper stand and density. Warm season fertilization should begin at 30 days after planting.

Apply maintenance levels of fertilizer as determined by soil test. In the absence of a soil test, fertilization should be as follows:

**Cool Season Grasses**

4 lbs. nitrogen (N)	}	Per 1000 ft. <sup>2</sup> per year
1 lb. phosphorus (P)		
2 lbs. potash (K)		

Seventy-five percent of the total requirements should be applied between September 1 and December 31st. The balance should be applied during the remainder of the year. **More than 1 lb. of soluble nitrogen per 1000 ft.<sup>2</sup> should not be applied at any one time.**

**Warm Season Grasses**

Apply 4-5 lbs. nitrogen (N) between May 1 and August 15th per 1000 ft.<sup>2</sup> per year.

Phosphorus (P) and Potash (K) should only be applied according to soil test.

**Note:** The use of slow-release fertilizer formulations for maintenance of turf is encouraged to reduce the number of applications and the impact on groundwater.

**Additional Information on the Successful Establishment of Grasses and Legumes**

See Appendix 3.32-b for "helpful hints" in achieving high success rates in grass or legume plantings.

**APPENDIX 3.32-a****SEED QUALITY CRITERIA**

Where certified seed is not available, the minimum requirements for grass and legume seed used in vegetative establishment are as follows:

- a. All tags on containers of seed shall be labeled to meet the requirements of the State Seed Law.
- b. All seed shall be subject to re-testing by a recognized seed laboratory that employs a registered seed technologist or by a state seed lab.
- c. All seed used shall have been tested within twelve (12) months.
- d. Inoculant - the inoculant added to legume seed in the seed mixtures shall be a pure culture of nitrogen-fixing bacteria prepared for the species. Inoculants shall not be used later than the date indicated on the container. Twice the supplier's recommended rate of inoculant will be used on dry seedings; five times the recommended rate if hydroseeded.
- e. The quality of the seed used shall be shown on the bag tags to conform to the guidelines in Table 3.32-E.

TABLE 3.32-E  
QUALITY OF SEED\*

	Minimum Seed <u>Purity (%)</u>	Minimum <u>Germination (%)</u>
<u>Legumes</u>		
Crownvetch	98	65**
Lespedeza, Korean	97	85**
Lespedeza, Sericea	98	85**
<u>Grasses</u>		
Bluegrass, Kentucky	97	85
Fescue, Tall (Improved, Turf-Type Cultivars)	98	85
Fescue, Tall (Ky-31)	97	85
Fescue, Red	98	85
Redtop	94	80
Reed Canarygrass	98	80
Perennial Ryegrass	98	90
Weeping Lovegrass	98	87
<u>Annuals</u>		
Annual Ryegrass	97	90
German Millet	98	85
Oats	98	80
Cereal Rye	98	85

\* Seed containing prohibited or restricted noxious weeds should not be accepted. Seed should not contain in excess of 0.5% weed seed. To calculate percent pure, live seed, multiply germination times purity and divide by 100.

Example: Ky-31 Tall Fescue with a germination of 85 percent and a purity of 97 percent.

$$97 \times 85 = 8245. \quad 8245 \div 100 = 82.45 \text{ percent pure live seed.}$$

\*\* Includes "hard seed"

**APPENDIX 3.32-b****KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL ESTABLISHMENT OF GRASSES AND LEGUMES****Planning**

Where feasible, grading operations should be planned around optimal seeding dates for the particular region. The most effective times for establishing perennial grass in Virginia generally extend from March through May and from August through October. Outside these dates, the probability of failure is much higher. If the time of year is not suitable for seeding a permanent cover (perennial species), a temporary cover crop should be planted. Temporary seeding of annual species (small grains, ryegrasses or millets) often succeeds during periods of the year that are unsuitable for seeding permanent (perennial) species.

Variations in weather and local site conditions can modify the effects of regional climate on seeding success. For this reason, mixtures including both cool and warm season species are preferred for low-maintenance cover, particularly in the Coastal Plain. Such mixtures promote cover which can adapt to a range of conditions. Many of these mixtures are not desirable, however, for high quality lawns, where variation in texture of the turf is inappropriate. It is important to note that in Virginia the establishment of 100% warm season grasses in a high quality lawn is limited to the extreme eastern portions of the Coastal Plain.

**Selection**

Species selection should be considered early in the process of preparing an erosion and sediment control plan. A variety of vegetation can be established in Virginia due to the diversity in both soils and climate. However, for practical, economical stabilization and long-term protection of disturbed sites, species selection should be made judiciously.

Seasonality must be considered when selecting species. Grasses and legumes are usually classified as warm or cool season in reference to their season of growth. Cool season plants realize most of their growth during the spring and fall and are relatively inactive or dormant during the hot summer months. Therefore, fall is the most favorable time to plant them. Warm season plants "green-up" late in the spring, grow most actively during the summer, and go dormant at the time of the first frost in fall. Spring and early summer are preferred planting times for warm season plants.

**Seed Mixtures**

As previously noted, the establishment of high quality turf frequently involves planting one single species. However, in seedings for erosion control purposes, the inclusion of more than one species should always be considered. Mixtures need not be excessive in poundage or seed count. The addition of a quick-growing annual provides early protection and facilitates establishment of one or two perennials in a mix. More complex mixtures might include a quick-growing annual, one or two legumes and more than one perennial grass.



The addition of a "nurse" crop (quick-growing annuals added to permanent mixtures) is a sound practice for soil stabilization, particularly on difficult sites - those with steep slopes; poor, rocky, erosive soils; those seeded out the optimum seeding periods; or in any situation where the development of permanent cover is likely to be slow. The nurse crop germinates and grows rapidly, holding the soil until the slower-growing perennial seedlings become established.

## APPENDIX 3.32-c

## PLANT INFORMATION SHEETS

Contents:Annual Grasses and Grains

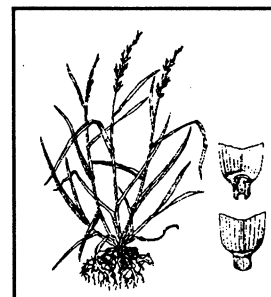
Oats  
Rye  
Foxtail Millet  
Annual Ryegrass

Annual Legumes

Annual Lespedeza

Perennials

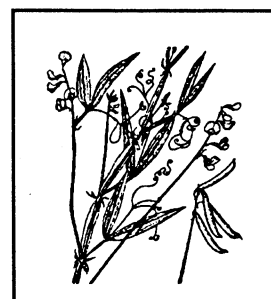
Tall Fescue  
Kentucky Bluegrass  
Perennial Ryegrass  
Fine Fescues  
Bermudagrass  
Reed Canarygrass

Miscellaneous Erosion Control Grasses

Weeping Lovegrass  
Redtop

Legumes

Crownvetch  
Flatpea  
Sericea Lespedeza  
White Clover

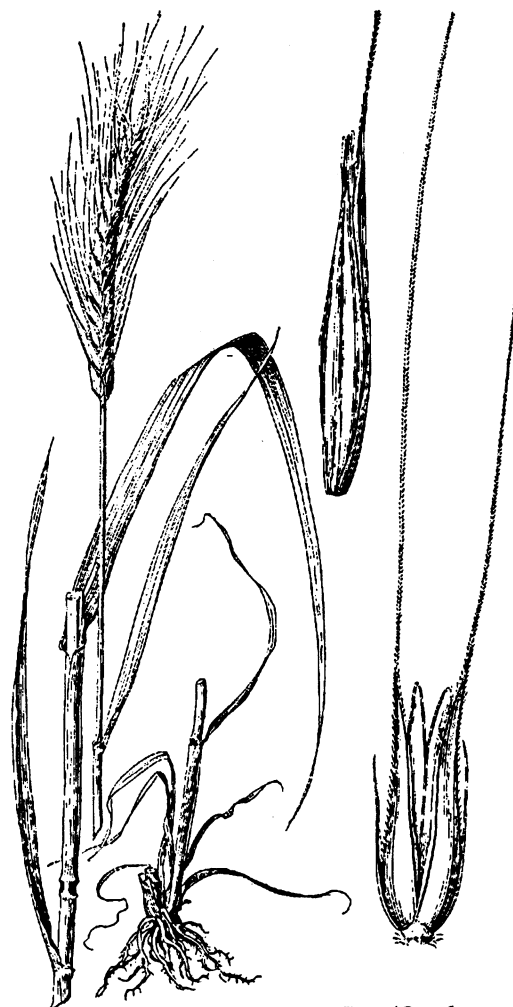


## ANNUAL GRASSES AND GRAINS

Small grains are cool season annual grasses primarily grown for animal feed and human consumption. In Virginia, the grains used for soil stabilization are primarily Rye and Oats. Foxtail Millet, which is sometimes considered a small grain, is becoming a very popular and successful planting for soil stabilization.

1. Oats (*Avenasativa*): A cool season annual grass primarily grown for animal feed and human consumption, but also used for soil stabilization. Oats are seeded in early spring in the western part of the state (winter oats may be sown in the Coastal Plain). Seeding rates are 3 bushels (100 lbs.) per acre bare ground or 2-1/2 lbs. per 1000 square feet.

2. Rye (*Secale cereale*): Often referred to as Winter Rye because of its winter hardiness, Rye is the most common small grain used for soil stabilization. It is also the most productive grain on dry, infertile, acid or sandy soils. It may be seeded in the fall for winter ground cover. By maturing early, it offers less competition during the late spring period, a critical time in the establishment of perennial species. Rye grain germinates quickly and is tolerant of poor soils. Including Rye grain in fall-seeded mixtures is almost always advantageous, but it is particularly helpful on difficult and erodible soils, erodible slopes or when seeding is late. Rates up to 100 lbs. for bare ground. Overly thick stands of Rye grain will suppress the growth of perennial seedlings. Approximately 50 lbs. per acre is the maximum for this purpose and, where lush growth is



*Rye (Secale cereale)*

expected, that rate should either be cut in half, or Rye grain should be totally eliminated from the mixture.

3. Foxtail Millet (*Setaria italica*): A warm season annual grass which may be used for temporary cover. German Millet (variety commonly used in Virginia) germinates quickly and goes to seed quickly. These features make it an excellent companion grass for summer seedlings. It dies at first frost. Seeding rates are up to 50 lbs. per acre for temporary cover. Use 10 to 20 lbs. per acre in mixes.
4. Annual Rye (*Lolium multiflorum*): A cool season annual grass used for temporary cover or as a nurse grass to allow for germination of permanent stands. Most commonly used in mixes for erosion control. Performs well throughout the state in neutral to slightly acid soils. Rates up to 100 lbs. per acre for temporary cover. Use 10 to 20 lbs. per acre in mixes.



*Foxtail Millet (Setaria italica)*



*Annual Rye (Lolium multiflorum)*

## ANNUAL LEGUMES

### 1. Annual Lespedezas (*Lespedeza striata*)

Uses: Pasture, hay, erosion control, soil improvement, wildlife food.

Description: Annual warm season legumes. Korean Lespedeza is larger and coarser than Common Lespedeza and grows to about 12 inches. Seed of Korean is shiny and black, while seed of Common is stippled. Kobe is the most desirable variety of Common Lespedeza.

Adaptation: Throughout Virginia. Optimum pH range is 6.0 to 6.5; will grow from 5.5 to 7.0. Will grow in soil textures ranging from sands to clays and through a wide range of fertility conditions.

Establishment: Seed should always be inoculated. May be seeded alone or mixed with grasses or small grains. Requires a firm seedbed; may be broadcast or drilled. Should be seeded in early spring at 25 to 40 lbs. per acre or one-half to 1 lb. per 1000 square feet, depending on use. (Use lower figure as half the seeding rate of any spring seeding with grass or grain.) Should not be mowed at less than three inches. Lespedeza will not make a large contribution in sod grasses like Bluegrass; they do best in open sod grasses like tall fescue.

Sources: Seed of common variety (Kobe) and Korean varieties (Climax, Harbin and Rowan) are commercially available.



Annual Lespedezas (*Lespedeza striata*)

## PERENNIALS

### 1. Tall Fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*)

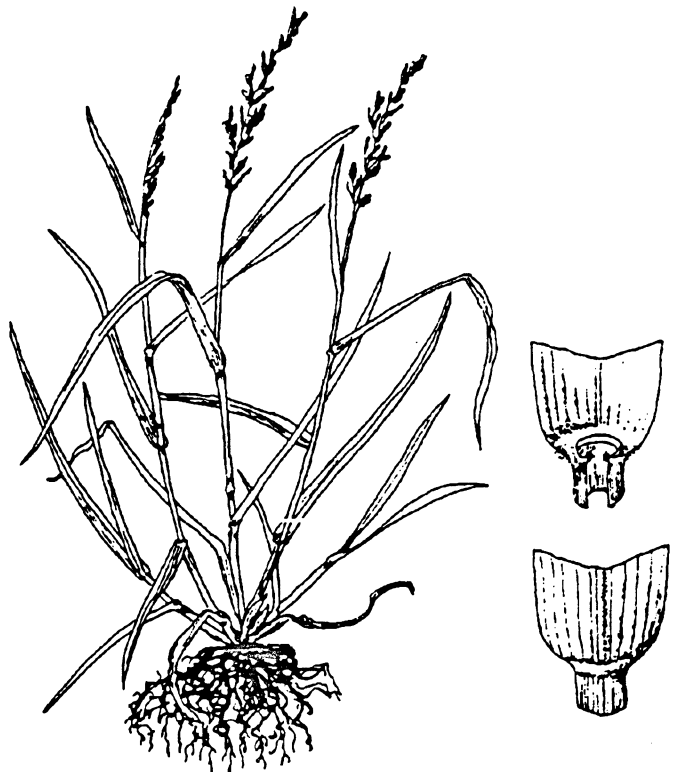
Uses: Pasture, hay, recreation areas, lawns and stabilization of waterways, banks, slopes, cuts, fills, and spoils. It is the most widely used grass at this time for stabilizing large disturbed areas.

Description: A robust, cool season, long-lived, deep-rooted bunchy grass which may have short rhizomes (underground stems). Kentucky 31 is the best-known variety. A number of new varieties of Tall Fescue are becoming available for lawn and other fine-turf uses, and several offer definite improvements. However, their higher cost over the old standby, KY 31, is seldom justified when used for purposes of stabilization and erosion control. Tall Fescue tolerates a wide range of seeding dates; however, with the possible exception of high mountain elevation, it is most dependable when planted in fall.

Adaptation: Adapts well to both high and low maintenance uses throughout Virginia. Adapted to a wide range of climatic conditions. Optimum pH range is 6.0 to 7.0; will tolerate from 3.0 to 8.0. Will grow on shallow and claypan soils if they are moist. Growth is limited more by moisture than by temperature extremes, but it will tolerate drought, infertile soils and moderate shade.

Establishment: Requires a firm seedbed. Hydroseeding is successful. Seeding rates vary from 100 lbs. per acre for erosion control to 250 lbs. per acre for lawns. Plant in early spring or from the middle of August through September. Legumes may not thrive in fescue stands due to the aggressive growth habits of this grass. Mowing is desirable on critical areas at least once every two years; lack of periodic mowing will encourage clumpiness.

Sources: Readily available as seed and sod.



*Tall Fescue (Festuca arundinacea)*

2. Kentucky Bluegrass (*Poa pratense*)

Uses: Pasture, turf for lawns, athletic fields, golf courses, and playgrounds. Also used to stabilize waterways, slopes, cuts and fills. Choice food for grouse, turkeys, deer and rabbits.

Description: Long-lived, cool season perennial grass which forms a dense sod. Becomes dormant in the heat of summer since its growing season is spring and fall.

Adaptation: Best adapted to well-drained, fertile soils of limestone origin and the climate of northern and western Virginia. Optimum pH range is 6.0 to 7.0. Bluegrasses are better suited to high maintenance situations in the transition zone. Essentially dormant during dry or hot weather; however, it will normally survive severe drought.

Establishment: Requires a firm, weed-free seedbed and adequate fertilization (liberal phosphorus) and lime are important. Can be used with Tall Fescues at low rates. Minimum mowing height is 1-1/2 inches. Critical erosion areas may be mowed only once per year, if desired. This grass is usually seeded with a mixture of other grasses or legumes; several varieties of Bluegrass should be used together to ensure good stand survival. Bare ground rates are 120 lbs. per acre. Overseed 1 to 1-1/2 per 1000 square feet.

Sources: Readily available as seed and sod.



*Kentucky Bluegrass (Poa pratense)*

### 3. Perennial Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*)

Uses: Erosion control, soil improvement, lawns, pasture, and hay; newer varieties are excellent for high-traffic areas.

Description: Perennial Ryegrasses are an excellent selection where rapid establishment is desired. Cool season. Ryegrasses cross-pollinate freely so "Common Ryegrass" may be a mixture of annual and perennial species. Certified seed of Perennial Ryegrass varieties is produced: Blaser, Palmer, Goalie, Fiesta II, Ranger, Regal and Pennfine may be used in Virginia.

Adaptation: Throughout Virginia. Grows best on dark, rich soils in mild climates. Newer varieties have good drought tolerance but may require irrigation if under drought stress or heavy traffic. Will tolerate wet soils with good surface drainage.

Establishment: A firm, mellow surface over compact subsoils gives good results. Seed in fall or spring. Perennial Ryegrass may also be seeded in mid-August to early September. For turf, use a rate of 5 to 8 lbs. per 1000 square feet, if seeded alone; lesser amounts are suitable in mixtures, depending on the characteristics of the companion species. Generally not seeded alone except on athletic fields with intensive use. Perennial Ryegrass does best when used with bluegrass as 20 percent or less of the mixture. Ryegrasses germinate rapidly which makes them particularly suited to disturbed-area stabilization and temporary



Perennial Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*)



seeding. They will, however, tend to dominate stands in mixtures if percentage is too high.

Sources: Readily available commercially. Care should be taken to buy seed appropriate to the needs of the project.

#### 4. Fine Fescues

- \* Red Fescue
- \* Hard Fescue
- \* Chewings Fescue

Uses: Excellent for shady, low maintenance areas and north-facing slopes. May be used to stabilize waterways, slopes, banks, cuts, fills, and as a cover crop in orchards.

Description: Red Fescue is a cool season perennial that occurs in two forms: bunch-type and creeping. Creeping Red Fescue forms a tight sod. The leaves of Red Fescue are narrow and wiry. Hard Fescues are slow-growing with excellent shade tolerance.

Adaptation: Shade tolerant and somewhat drought-resistant once established. Grows well in sandy and acidic soils. Optimum pH range is 4.5 to 6.0. Prefers well-drained soils but requires adequate moisture for establishment. In areas of high temperature and humidity (such as southeastern Virginia), some Fine Fescues may turn brown or deteriorate during the summer. Newer varieties of Hard Fescue are more drought tolerant.

Establishment: Rarely seeded in pure stands. Seedbed preparation and fertility adjustments are usually dictated by the other grasses in the mixture. Red Fescues may comprise 25 to 60% by weight of a seeding mixture. In shaded areas red fescue may be the key grass in the mixture. Mowing consistently below 1-1/2 is not recommended.

Sources: Readily available commercially. New Hard Fescues may be in short supply.



*Red Fescue (Festuca rubra)*

5. Bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*)

Uses: Soil and water conservation, pasture, hay, silage, lawns, both high maintenance and general purpose turf, and stabilization of grassed waterways.

Description: A long-lived, warm season perennial that spreads by stolons and rhizomes (runners and underground stems). Height of stems of Common Bermudagrass may be 12 inches. The stems are short-jointed and the leaves flat and spreading. Common Bermudagrass may be established vegetatively with sprigs (sections of stems) or from seeds; however, it has the potential to develop into a weed problem because it spreads vigorously. Cold-tolerant hybrids are usually specified. These are traditionally established from sprigs or sod, but seed is now available.

Adaptation: Southern Piedmont and Coastal Plain in Virginia and some southern appalachian ridges and valleys. Check Std. & Spec. 3.34 for regional adaptations of varieties. Makes its best growth when average daily temperatures are above 75 degrees. Grows on a wide range of soils from heavy clays to deep sands. Optimum pH is 6.0 to 6.5. It is drought-resistant and salt-tolerant. Tolerates floods of short duration but will not thrive on waterlogged soils; does not persist under heavy shade. For rough areas, the varieties Midland (a forage hybrid) and Coastal are recommended. For fine-turf areas, Tufcote (a fine-leaved turf hybrid), Midiron, Tifway, and Vamont are used in Virginia.



Bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*)

Establishment: By sodding or planting sprigs. Sprigs should be planted (by hand or machine) when soil is warm in a well-prepared, moist seedbed. One end of the sprig should extend above ground, and the other should be covered by firmly packed soil.

Sources: Readily available as seed, sprigs, and sod.

6. Reed Canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*)

Uses: Pasture, hay silage, and erosion control. An excellent grass for stabilizing waterways, healing and controlling gullies, and protecting shorelines of ponds and reservoirs from wave action. Also provides good cover for shooting preserves. Can be used in deep gullies and drainage ditches where streamflow is rapid. Vigorous growth may impede flow in small, low velocity channels.

Description: A long-lived, cool season, clumpy perennial with coarse rhizomes (underground stems). Grows 4 to 7 feet tall. Most widely used variety is Ioreed.

Adaptation: Throughout Virginia. Does best in a cool, moist climate. Makes best growth on fertile, moist, medium to fine soils; but will grow in a wide range of soil moisture conditions. Will also grow well on swampy or floodplain soils consisting of peat, muck or sand. Will withstand flooding, yet is quite drought-tolerant when mature. Optimum pH range 5.0 to 7.5.



*Reed Canarygrass (Phalaris arundinacea)*

Establishment: Requires a well-prepared seedbed that is firm and weed free. Seed in spring or late summer; drill seed alone or with a legume. Seed must be fresh - it should be labeled as having at least 70% germination tested within the last 6 months. Normally, pure stands should be established because this grass is not very compatible with other plants. Mowing should not occur more than twice a year on stabilized critical erosion areas or waterway as this will result in reduced stands.

Sources: Available commercially.

## MISCELLANEOUS EROSION CONTROL GRASSES

### 1. Weeping Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*)

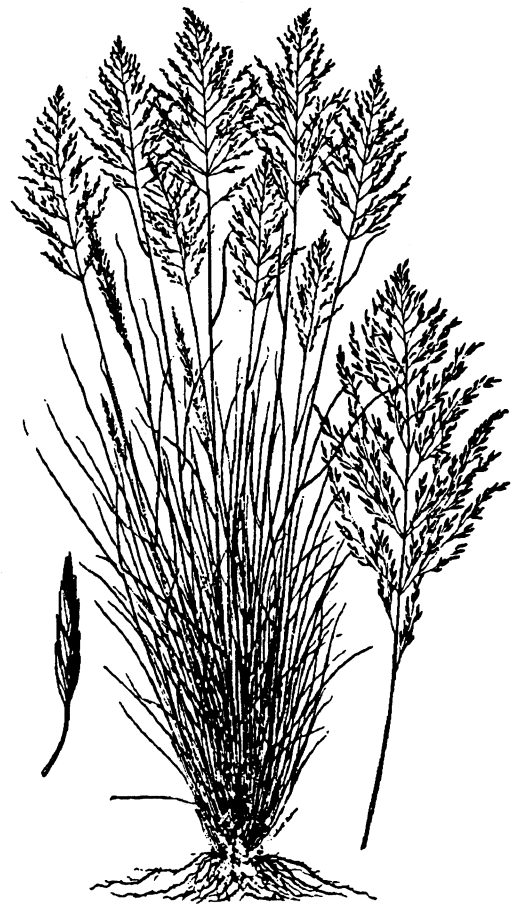
**Uses:** Fast-growing cover for erosion control. In the northeast, weeping lovegrass acts as a summer annual. The normal life of 3 to 5 years may be foreshortened by low winter temperatures. May provide permanent cover on southern exposure.

**Description:** A rapid-growing, warm season bunch grass introduced from East Africa. The long, narrow leaves are numerous, very fine, and droop over to the ground, hence the name. Leaf height is rarely above 12 inches.

**Adaptation:** Prefers light-textured, well-drained soil; will thrive on soil of low fertility. Low winter temperatures may deplete stand.

**Establishment:** Easy to establish by seed; germinates rapidly and grows quickly. Lime and fertilizer needs are similar to those of Tall Fescue and Ryegrass. Requires pH of 5.5 or higher. May be planted any time after danger of frost and throughout the summer. Very fine seed, commonly added to erosion control seed mixtures. Use of hydroseeders is successful if the seeding rate is increased to compensate for the lack of a firm seedbed. Normal seeding rates are 5 to 20 lbs. per acre in mixes.

**Sources:** Readily available from large seed companies.



*Weeping Lovegrass (Eragrostis curvula)*

2. Redtop (*Agrostis alba*)

Uses: Erosion control, pasture, companion grass in turf seedings and stabilizing ditch and channel banks, grassed waterways, and other disturbed areas.

Description: A coarse, cool season perennial grass with rhizomes (underground stems). Grows to 30 to 40 inches.

Adaptation: Throughout Virginia; does better in the cool, humid areas. Will grow under a wide variety of soil and moisture conditions. Grows on very acid soils (pH 4.0 to 7.5) and poor, clay soils of low fertility. While drought-resistant, it is also a useful wetland grass.

Establishment: Has very small seed and requires a compact seedbed. May be sown in early spring or late summer. Seldom seeded alone except as temporary turf. Adequate fertilization is essential on critical areas to obtain good cover rapidly. Most commonly added to mixes, usually 2 to 3 lbs. per acre. Redtop will disappear from a stand under frequent low mowing.

Sources: Available from commercial sources.



*Redtop (Agrostis alba)*

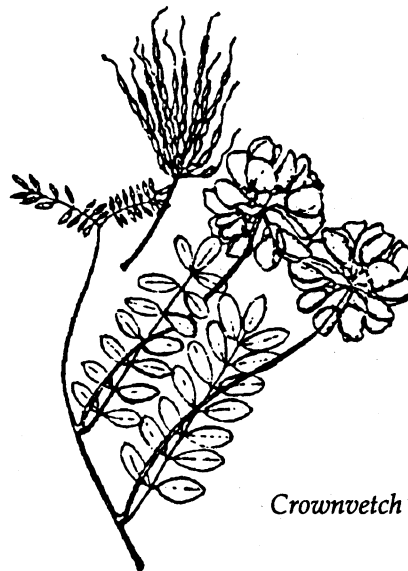
## LEGUMES

### 1. Crownvetch (*Coronilla varia*)

Uses: For erosion control of critical areas such as steep roadbanks, surface mine spoil and industrial waste areas. It is also useful as a residential ground cover. It provides high-quality forage for ruminant animals and serves as a wildlife food and cover plant.

Description: A deep-rooted, cool season, perennial, herbaceous legume with a semi-reclining growth habit. It reaches 2 to 3 feet in height, and does not climb or twine. It fixes nitrogen in the soil and makes a dense mat of vegetative cover.

Adaptation: Best adapted to the northern Piedmont and Mountain regions of Virginia. It grows best on well-drained soils with a pH range of 5.5 to 8.3. It will persist on more acid soils for a prolonged period once established. It is not adapted to soils with poor drainage. Crownvetch is winter-hardy and drought-tolerant. Varieties commonly used are Chemung, Penngift and Emerald.



*Crownvetch (Coronilla varia)*

Establishment: Only inoculated seed should be used. Requires at least 500 lbs. per acre of 5-10-10 fertilizer (or the area should be fertilized according to soil test results). Soil acidity must be raised above a pH of 5.5. Crownvetch requires mulch and can be hydroseeded successfully. Seeding in the spring is most successful. Frost-seeding may be used on steep or stony sites (seed in late winter, and allow frost action to work the seed into soil). Crownvetch often takes 2 to 3 years to establish a dense stand. A companion grass such as Perennial Ryegrass or Redtop needs to be mixed into the initial planting, but the Crownvetch will eventually crowd out the companion plants. It will not persist under frequent mowing.

Sources: Available commercially.

2. Flatpea (*Lathyrus sylvestris*)

Uses: Flatpea is an erosion control plant that provides a thick mat of vegetative cover, fixes nitrogen in the soil, and can be maintained with a minimum of management. It is useful on roadbanks, dams, borrow area, gravel pits, surface mine spoil, and industrial waste areas. It is an ideal plant for stabilizing logging roads and utility right-of-ways since it will restrict the invasion of many woody species. It also provides good wildlife cover and food.

Description: A cool season perennial legume. It will climb to a height of 6 to 7 feet if support is available, but the normal height is 2 to 3 feet.

Adaptation: Flatpea is adaptable to a wide variety of soil conditions. It is drought-tolerant, cold-hardy, and does well on low-fertility sites such as sands, gravels, and soils from acid sandstones. It is not adapted to wet sites, but it will grow on somewhat poorly drained soils. It will tolerate minor shade and a minor degree of flooding. The optimum pH range is from 6.0 to 6.5. The only available variety is Lathco, developed by the USDA-Soil Conservation Service.

Establishment: Use only inoculated seed. The seedbed should be scarified, if possible. The seed is normally drilled or band seeded, but on rough sites or steep slopes, it can be broadcast and then worked into the soil by light dragging. Where possible, a light application of mulch, properly anchored, will assure a good stand. Lime is essential if the soil is below a pH of 5.0. Fertilize according to a soil test or apply 400 lbs. per acre of 10-20-10. Work lime and fertilizer into soil when preparing



*Flatpea (Lathyrus sylvestris)*



the seedbed. For a primary stand, use a seeding rate of 30 to 40 lbs. in a mixture with 8 to 10 lbs. of Perennial Ryegrass or 10 to 15 lbs. of Tall Fescue. Flatpea is slow to germinate, so grasses are needed to provide quick cover. Early spring seedings in April or May are best; June seedings are less desirable. Grass seedings may be overseeded with Flatpea from November through March. Flatpea is usually not winter-hardy if seeded in mid or late summer; therefore, dormant seedings are recommended. Mulch with straw at a minimum rate of 1-1/2 tons per acre on all critical sites, and anchor. Little management is required. Remove woody vegetation if the site is invaded. Mowing is acceptable once the stand is established. Mow after full bloom at a 6-inch minimum height.

Sources: Lathco is commercially available.

3. Sericea Lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*)

Uses: Hay, pasture, erosion control, cover crop, wildlife food.

Description: Warm season perennial legume with upright woody stems 12 to 18 inches tall. Roots widely branched penetrating soil 3 feet or more.

Adaptation: Well adapted to all parts of Virginia. Best on well-drained, deep soils of medium texture. Will also grow on sandy, rather acidic, infertile soils. Most often the legume of choice for eastern Virginia. Optimum pH range is 6.0 to 6.5, but will tolerate a range of 5.0 to 7.0. It is drought-tolerant. Common varieties in Virginia are Serala and Interstate.

Establishment: Seed from April to June. Requires a firm seedbed. Use only inoculated seed. Rates vary from 20 to 30 lbs. of unhulled seed per acre. Requires phosphate and potash. Will not persist under frequent mowing (once a year recommended).

Sources: Seed of common varieties is commercially available.



*Sericea Lespedeza* (*Lespedeza cuneata*)

#### 4. White Clover (*Trifolium repens*)

Uses: Common White Clover is used mostly for pastures. Ladino clover, a giant white clover, is also used for hay and silage in mixtures with a grass. The thick-growing, spreading characteristics of the common type make it ideal for erosion control.

Description: A cool season perennial legume. The common type has a prostrate type of growth, while the Ladino is more upright. Both spread by stolons (horizontal branches along ground) and by roots at the nodes. Representative common varieties used in Virginia are Tillman, Common and White Dutch. Ladino is the only cultivar for the large type.

Adaptation: Thrives in cool climates and on moist, rich soils with full sun. Will not tolerate extremes of cold or drought. Where soil moisture is not adequate, Ladino is short-lived. Optimum soil pH is 6.5, but it will grow in a range of 5.0 to 7.5. Common White Clover volunteers readily in Bluegrass mixtures where moderate to high fertility is maintained. Stands are persistent.

Establishment: Ladino Clover requires inoculation, fertilizing, and liming for successful growth. Phosphorus and potash are the key fertilizer elements required. Ladino makes a good companion crop with grasses such as Orchardgrass, Bromegrass, Tall Fescue and Timothy. These grasses will normally crowd out the Ladino after 2 to 3 years. Seed should be planted (drilled or broadcast) at shallow depths, and a firm seedbed is desirable.

Sources: Available commercially.



White Clover (*Trifolium repens*)

## APPENDIX 3.32-d

TABLE 3.32-F

**LBS. OF GROUND AGRICULTURAL LIMESTONE\*  
PER THOUSAND SQUARE FEET NEEDED  
TO CORRECT pH LEVEL OF ACID SOILS TO 6.5**

Existing pH	Soil Texture		
	Sandy Loam	Loam	Clay Loam
6.2	20	35	40
6.0	40	55	70
5.8	55	65	85
5.6	70	80	105
5.4	90	100	125
5.2	105	120	140
5.0	120	140	160
4.8	125	180	205
4.6	155	210	230
4.0	200	250	300

\* Lime should always be applied in accordance with the results of a soil test, such as may be obtained through the soil testing laboratory at VPI&SU or through a reputable commercial laboratory.

Source: DSWC's Basic Urban E&S in Virginia